

REMARKS

The Examiner in the Official Action objected to claim 22, line 7 with respect to recitation "adapted to placed" as being incomplete. By this amendment, this phrase has been amended to read "adapted to be placed". Accordingly, the objection cited by the Examiner has been overcome.

The Examiner in paragraph 4 of the Official Action rejected claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11-14, 17, 18, 22 and 28 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gray et al. (5,685,570). The Examiner has also in paragraphs 6 and 7 rejected the recited dependent claims under 135 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gray et al. for the reasons set forth therein.

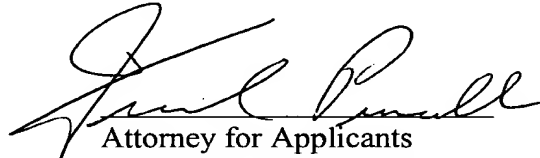
Currently, there are three independent claims present in the subject application, claims 1, 22 and 28. The remaining claims depend at least ultimately upon one of these three claims. Independent claims 1, 22 and 28 are directed to an Official Postal product which has a first image area having an Official Postal indicia and a second image area having a personal image. A protective coating covers the second image area such that an Official Postal mark placed over said second area will not permanently adhere to the personal image thereon. These independent claims have all been rejected over the Gray et al. reference for the reasons set forth therein. However, the Gray et al. reference fails to teach or suggest the invention as taught and claimed by applicant. The Gray et al. reference is directed to a postage stamp wherein there is provided a coated region 9. The coated area has interspersed therein non-coated regions, such that the cancellation mark can be obtained in such region. As set forth in column 4, lines 44-47, a problem with such typical prior coatings is that it does not permit penetration and drying of approved stamp cancellation inks. Thus, it has been difficult to correctly and reliably cancel stamps of this nature. The coating provided in Gray et al. is designed for use in applying a phosphor coating for determining if an Official Postage is present. In order to provide the area for receiving ink, a grid or cross-hatched arrangement is provided. (See col. 4, lines 65 through column 5, lines 3.) As set forth in column 5, lines 31-34 it states that providing a plurality of coated spaced regions interspersed with non-coated regions to achieve the required detection while at the same time, permitting penetration and drying of an approved cancellation ink, over the regions 9 and 11.... Thus, the Gray et al. reference is directed to solving a problem of not being able to retain a cancellation mark.

Thus, it can be seen that the Gray et al. teaches away from the present invention in that they are trying to provide a system wherein an ink penetration is actually enhanced. This is in contrast to the present invention which specifically

sets forth in the independent claims that the protective coating is such that an official cancellation mark will not permanently adhere to the personal image.

In view of the foregoing applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Claims:

22.(Once Amended) A kit for producing an official postal product having personal image comprising;

a first sheet having a plurality official postal products each of said products having a first official image area having an official postal indicia and a second area for receiving a personal image;

a second sheet having a plurality of labels each having a personal image, each of said labels being adapted to be placed in said second area of said official postal product, each of said labels having a protective coating thereon such that an official postal cancellation mark will not be permanently adhered to said personal image.

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